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Security Council

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Letter dated 7 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I regret to have to draw the attention of the Security Council, once again, to the intolerable and unacceptable situation prevailing in Orientale province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For four days now, there has been fighting in the town of Kisangani, in the Congolese territory, between the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and the Ugandan People's Defence Forces (UPDF). This deadly and intense fighting has already claimed the lives of some 100 civilians, mostly women and children. It has also caused massive destruction in the town, resulting in considerable material damage.

My Government would like to remind the Security Council of the statement made to the press on 6 June 2000, firmly condemning the recent fighting between the Rwandan and Ugandan forces and calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

My Government invites the Security Council to go beyond verbal condemnation and, by way of example, to impose sanctions this time on Uganda and Rwanda, two countries that are members of the United Nations and that are committing acts of war on the territory of a third country which is a member of the United Nations, in this case, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government would like to point out that, in January 2000, referring to the initial fighting between Rwanda and Uganda that took place in August 1999, it had already warned the international community that these two aggressor countries were about to resume hostilities and it had called on the international community to intervene in order to avert a resumption of the genocide of the Congolese people.

It must be noted that, since then two further armed confrontations have taken place between these two countries — one of which is still going on — and the United Nations has yet to react in accordance with its principal mission which is to guarantee international peace and security; it thereby seems to be sanctioning the atrocities committed by these foreign forces in Congolese territory.

My Government calls on the Security Council to act on this request by:

1. Strongly condemning the aggression perpetrated against the Democratic Republic of the Congo by its neighbours, namely, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi;

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2. Condemning the massacre of innocent Congolese victims in the town of Kisangani;

3. Forcefully demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.